

# OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec 9th, 1871.

After six months of lethargy and stupid dullness, this city has again assumed its winter or Congress look of liveliness. Our solemn men in council yesterday and after the usual prayers in both Houses, proceeded to business. In the Senate the stump speaking chaplain, Dr. Newman, made a prayer in which he alluded to justice overtaking the Tammany ring, but forgot to state whether justice was on the track of some of the rings of the administration, which are equally as bad, if not worse than the ring in New York, which was crushed by the assistance of Democratic votes. Senator Sumner's first words were on his old hobby, the negro, and after relieving himself of six months of silence on the subject of negro equality, he felt better and subsided. Senator Blair began the war on General Grant by an inquiry as to recent suspension of the habeas corpus in South Carolina. Mr. Beck did the same in the House. The appointment of the committees in the House was a matter of considerable interest. The composition of the Ways and Means committee seems favorable to a reform in the tariff. Dawes, chairman, is claimed by the high tariff men, while Kelley, Maynard and Roberts are known to be in favor of a high tariff. The free trade men, are Brooks, Beck, Keer and Finkleburg. Burchard is looked upon as a moderate high tariffite, and holds the balance of power. As the administration and the Radical party, as an organization, are entirely in the interest of the protectionists and monopolists, I cannot for an instant believe that they have in the most remote degree endeavored the interests of their friends. You can depend upon it, the apparent fairness of the selection of the committee of Ways and Means is only a blind for election purposes, and not a desire to reduce the profits of radical monopolists a penny. The committee is "dead to rights," as the detectives say when they have a thing sure. So far as a reform in the revenue is concerned there is a decided majority of this committee in its favor, and Heaven knows there is a dire necessity for it. Considerable curiosity was manifested as to what disposition speaker Blaine would make of his antagonist last session, the Hon. Benjamin Butler. Blaine has dropped the afore-said Benjamin from the Ways and Means committee, and from the chairmanship of the Reconstruction committee, and placed him at the head of the unimportant committee, on the revision of the Laws. This announcement caused considerable merriment. Judge Poland, who held this position last session, went over to the somewhat surprised and much chagrined Butler, and congratulated him on his recognition by the speaker. When Butler retired to the cloak room he said in a jocular way, "the head of the table after all is where the Mc Nab sits, and it may be that this round about way of snubbing one's enemies is not so masterly as it appears to be." Benjamin probably sees some way of returning Mr. Blaine's compliment, and is not disposed of so completely as is thought. The President's message on some questions is shilly-shally, on others very decided. The abuse of Catecazy, the Russian Minister, remarkably so. Grant always sticks to his friends and relations. That is his best hold. His brother-in-law is one of the counsel for the Perkins claim, which is against the Russian Government, and which Catecazy has opposed. This claim is considered a fraud by Catecazy. It appears that the President, by letter, as a personal favor to himself, asked the Czar to favorably consider this claim. Does not the President back his friends? Social difficulties have aggravated the former difficulty, and the result is, the Minister has been recalled and a part of Grant's annual message is devoted to a covering up of his friendly designs in his brother in law's behalf, as well as the crushing of Madame Catecazy by Madame Grant, Fish and others, who determined that this beautiful lady should no longer reign in the capital, as one of the queens of beauty, and leaders of the fashion. The Chronicle of this city, edited by the notorious ex-Gov. Holden, of N. C. says: "The President gives a very hard rap on the back of those public men who recommend any body or office, who keep them, whether at or out, honest or dishonest. Will these gentlemen really feel it, and heed it?" Baiting reproval is would not be so half so obnoxious as this. That the man who sold nearly every office of any magnitude in his gift to the highest bidder, should preach morality, is hypocrisy of the vilest kind. Do as I say and not as I do, is Grant's motto.

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